

hemi-sleeves are multiple pairs of complementary hemi-sleeves" (claim 8), "the filler forms an integral sleeve snugging material-monopole" (claim 12), and "a mounting support incorporated into the sleeves for the mounting of appurtenances" (claim 13).

The Examiner requested clarification of the foregoing. The applicant provides the following remarks and explanations by way of clarification, with references in parentheses citing the specification as originally filed with the application.

The reinforcing complimentary hemi-sleeves 12 (page 5, line 13-14) form a reinforcing sleeve around the monopole (page 5, lines 14-15) when secured to the monopole with flanges 14 and fasteners to join the complementary hemi-sleeves, which appear as matching pairs of substantially semi-circular components that fit together to form a circular reinforcement around a monopole when viewing a top or cross-sectional view of the monopole, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. This description in the specification, along with the drawings, clearly discloses and describes in detail the complementary hemi-sleeves as being substantially semi-circular in cross-section so that a matching pair of hemi-sleeves with flanges is attachable around the exterior of a monopole via fasteners that join the two sections together for the purpose of reinforcing the monopole at that attachment location. The sleeves are shaped to match and fit against the exterior of the surface of the monopole, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, in order to provide securement thereto by approximating the shape of the monopole outer edge or perimeter (page 5, lines 19-21). The sleeves are attachable and/or attached to a monopole at a predetermined, select position for optimal reinforcement of the monopole, based upon the location on the monopole where appurtenances are mounted thereto (page 8, lines 13-21). Where multiple appurtenances are located in different locations on the monopole,

multiple pairs of complementary hemi-sleeves are used to reinforce the monopole at corresponding locations, as set forth in claim 8 and in the specification at page 8, lines 13-21. The flanges (page 5, line 14) shown in Figures 1 and 2 are provided for the connection of the sleeves to each other for securable attachment onto the monopole; a stepped monopole is known in the art as a monopole having a multiplicity of diameters in cross-sections that are greater at the base of the monopole and progressively smaller moving away from the base toward the top of the pole. Additional securement for the attached complementary hemi-sleeves is provided by the combination of a filler or snugging material that combines with the reinforcing sleeve to snugly and securely fill any gaps that may exist between the interior of the sleeves and the exterior surface or perimeter of the monopole (page 8, lines 8-12), as illustrated in Figure 2. The filler may be a neoprene gasket, as set forth in the specification at page 7, lines 13-21 and page 8, lines 3-12. Finally, a mounting support incorporated into the sleeves for the mounting of appurtenances is described (page 8, lines 13-23), in particular on page 8 at lines 21-23. The appurtenances are attachable to the monopole indirectly by being attached to the reinforcing sleeve of the present invention, in particular where mounting supports are provided, via fasteners such as bolts; appurtenances are normally attached directly to the monopole itself (page 8, lines 19-21).